

through prioritizing projects and making sure that agency employees had the support required to tackle Federal infrastructure issues.

He started his career at the Timken Company of Canton, a leading international manufacturer of highly engineered bearings and alloy steels. At Timken, Steve progressed from an initial position as stockroom clerk to vice president. In 1991, then Governor George Voinovich appointed Steve to his Cabinet as director of the Department of Administrative Services, which provides services to State agencies that are similar to what GSA provides Federal agencies. After his successful tenure in State government, Steve returned to Timken where he was elected as an officer and promoted to senior vice president.

Additionally, Steve has been very active in community and charitable organizations. He has been recognized by numerous groups for his commitment to his home community.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Steve for his work in getting a new Federal building for Canton, Ohio. Through Steve's leadership, this new Federal center will be a one-stop facility where citizens can come to various Federal agencies to get issues addressed. The building will be a model for the GSA system, and we owe its success to Steve's guidance. I look forward to being with Steve at the future ceremony that opens Canton's new Federal building.

We are proud of Steve's service at GSA, but also pleased that he, and his wife, Sondra, are returning home to Canton, Ohio and be active members in our community.

TRIBUTE TO MALIK AHMED,
FOUNDER AND CEO, BETTER
FAMILY LIFE, INC.

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Malik Ahmed, the founder and chief executive officer of Better Family Life, Inc., a holistic cultural and community development corporation he founded in February 1983. He has pioneered the concept of synthesizing and blending the imperatives of African-American culture with the complexities of community and economic development.

Better Family Life is dedicated to the prosperity and growth of the African-American family, as well as the preservation of culture, consciousness and community. Organized out of a need to find internal solutions to the crises within the African-American family, the organization's mission is to plan and establish social, cultural, artistic, youth, economic, housing and educational programs that help to promote positive and innovative changes within the metropolitan St. Louis and East St. Louis communities.

Under his leadership Better Family Life, Inc. has grown to include a full-time professional staff of more than 70, with 30 percent of the staff having advanced degrees. Recently, the organization purchased the former Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School at 5415 Page Boulevard, in St. Louis, MO. When the \$4 million renovation is completed, the three-story facility will be home to the Better Family Life Cultural Center & Museum, housing cor-

porate offices and four—job training—community programs: Project RESPECT—job training—Neighbor-to-Neighbor Housing Counseling & Asset Building, Youth Passport to the Future and Cultural Arts.

Other Better Family Life programs include the annual Kwanzaa Expo and the Unity Ball extravaganza. The 20th annual Unity Ball has grown to include approximately 1,500 attendees and honors numerous community leaders, elders, youth, movers and shakers at all levels. Recently, in response to this country's worst disaster on record, Better Family Life, along with the Millions More Movement, spearheaded a relief drive for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, sending an 18-wheel tractor-trailer filled with donations from the St. Louis community to Hattiesburg, MS.

Prior to founding Better Family Life, Mr. Ahmed was a registered representative with the prestigious financial planning firm, The Moneta Group. An avid collector of fine art and literature, he is president of B4 Positive Products and Marketing, a business he founded in 1989 to network, market and distribute books and African artifacts.

Mr. Ahmed has traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad. He speaks fluent French. As a Peace Corps volunteer, he worked for 3 years as an urban planner in the West African country of Mali, where he successfully developed a cost-effective sanitation program for the capital city of Bamako. Mr. Ahmed holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in public administration/policy analysis. He is the recipient of many community service awards and serves on various boards. He is married to DeBorah and they have one son, Shabazz.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Malik Ahmed before the United States House of Representatives for his tireless dedication to the development of culture, community and self-improvement among minorities in St. Louis.

RECOGNIZING MURRAY/CALLOWAY
AND OHIO COUNTY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two outstanding communities in my District which were recently selected as two of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by the America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth organization. Murray/Calloway County and Ohio County, Kentucky, were chosen based on the their fulfillment of the America's Promise Five Promises: Safe Places, Effective Education, Opportunities to Serve, Healthy Start, and Caring Adults. These communities have demonstrated their commitment to the success of our area's youth by focusing on these promises and working together to ensure our youth have the skills and resources they need to succeed in life. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to represent them in Congress and grateful for their hard work and determination.

Murray/Calloway County was recognized for the healthy start and safe places it provides area students. In the fall of 2005, Calloway County implemented a countywide after school

program for grades K–5. Up to 175 students participated in the program last year alone. In addition, partnerships between Big Brothers and Big Sisters and local schools have been highly successful in establishing mentoring relationships among citizens and elementary and middle school students. Murray can also be proud of the low dropout rate at Murray High School, which is only one percent. In terms of health, Murray/Calloway County has a teenage birthrate significantly below the statewide average and has decreased drug use among its youth. Clearly, this community has much to be proud of and the youth have an ideal community in which to learn and grow.

Ohio County found itself in the spotlight because of the caring adults in the community, the safe places and healthy start it offers youth, and its effective education policies. Most experts will agree that parental involvement is important in the success of a child's education. In Ohio County, this lesson is certainly understood by the parents who volunteered over 13,800 hours in local schools. The County also invested in a state-of-the-art fitness center and now has 21 percent of the county as members. The birthrate among 15–17 year-olds decreased from 43 percent in 1997 to 14.7 percent in 2001, and the dropout rate among high school students also decreased from 8.5 percent to just over 1 percent. Perhaps most impressively, local students and adults involved in the Together We Care/Ohio County Schools community partnership decided to tackle tobacco use among kids. In a county where the largest crop is tobacco, this was a real challenge. These student/adult groups visited stores selling tobacco products and requested that they remove ads for tobacco products in their stores and move products to less visible locations. One month later, 95 percent of the stores had made the requested changes.

Again, I am proud of the progress these communities are making and pleased that they have been selected as two of the 100 Best Communities for Youth.

TRIBUTE TO HOLY ASCENSION
CHURCH AND HIS HOLINESS
FILARET PATRIARCH OF KYIV
AND ALL RUS-UKRAINE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the 80th anniversary of the existence of Holy Ascension Church, located on Broad Street in Clifton, New Jersey. To mark this important occasion, the church will be honored by a visit from His Holiness Filaret Patriarch of Kyiv and all Rus-Ukraine.

As a lifelong resident and former Mayor of the neighboring city of Paterson, I cannot think of another organization that has meant more to the surrounding community than Holy Ascension Church. For the past 80 years, the men and women of Holy Ascension Church have given generously of their time, talents, and energy, and have made an indelible mark on countless people's lives. I feel that it is only fitting that Holy Ascension Church be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

The history of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Clifton, formerly of Passaic, is the history of many devoted men and woman through the years, who have devoted both time and effort to maintaining the religious traditions of the Holy Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian cultural heritage.

With the large migration of Ukrainians to the United States in the early 1900's, many chose to settle in the Passaic County area. In 1925 a small group of Ukrainian-Americans set out to organize an Orthodox Parish to serve their spiritual needs. Through the efforts of the organizers the original church was purchased and consecrated on Sunday July 25, 1925 by his Excellency Metropolitan John Theodorovich. The new church served as a hub for the Ukrainian community. Over the years the Parish members relished in their heritage and shared it throughout the area. There were various outings of the Ukrainian Folk Ballet and the Lysenko Chorus which helped introduce the Ukrainian culture to other people.

In 1962-63 the parish adopted its current constitution and by-laws that would serve as the basis for all church activity well into its future. Under the pastorate of the Very Reverend Theodore Forestry, the building committee was reorganized. Land was purchased for the present church and its rectory in 1967. With the impending sale of the church property, the parishioners authorized the building committee to hire Mr. Jaroslav Sichynsky as the architect for their new house of worship. The new parish rectory was the first building to be completed in the fall of 1968. In September of 1968 the last Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Hope Avenue site and contracts were conducted with the State of New Jersey to make way for Rt. 21.

The new church structure is a masterpiece in blending old Byzantine style of architecture with the contemporary structural methods. The central dome rises above the stone and brick edifice symbolizing the glory of the kingdom of God that rises above the material world.

On Sunday, June 7, 1970, the Consecration and Blessing of the new edifice finally took place. With the presentation of floral bouquets to His Beatitude Metropolitan John, His Excellency Archbishop Matyslaw and His Grace Bishop Mark, the distinguished hierarchy, visiting clergy, and honored guests proceeded from the rectory to the church where they were traditionally greeted with bread and salt by the Parish President Peter Dutkevitch.

The blessing of the new church was followed by the Pontifical Liturgy after which the placing of the cornerstone was witnessed by all. The afternoon was celebrated with a dedication banquet.

Fifty years after its initial consecration in Passaic, this beautiful church proudly stands as a landmark in the great city of Clifton, spiritually lead by Father Oleh Zhownirovych.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the men and women of the Holy Ascension Church epitomize the noble spirit of community service and volunteerism that we all strive to achieve. The sense of altruism and spirit of humanitarianism demonstrated daily by the congregation of the Holy Ascension Church is living proof of the difference that a handful of people can make in the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the members of exceptional institutions such as the

Holy Ascension Church. I ask that you join our colleagues, the people of the city of Clifton, the Ukrainian community, and me in recognizing the men and women of the Holy Ascension Church for 80 years of ministry to the community of Clifton, New Jersey.

HONORING HARRIET BURGESS,
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDATION
OF AMERICAN LAND CONSERVANCY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Harriet Burgess, President and founder of American Land Conservancy. For the past 20 years, Harriet, who presently resides in Inverness, California, has applied her consummate skill in building consensus among legislators, government agencies, landowners and environmental groups for the conservation of public lands.

Her list of acquisition accomplishments while Vice President of the Trust for Public Land reveals a national landscape of treasured sites. She saw a need for a non-profit land acquisition agency that would tackle the most challenging and difficult projects. She founded the American Land Conservancy to rescue irreplaceable environmental acreage from imminent development.

Through her talent and perseverance she has kept intact precious tracts of land from California's Topanga Canyon to the Sierra Nevada and has been a matchmaker in arranging swaps and purchases of private lands for public uses from the Malibu coast to the Columbia River Gorge.

One transaction in Nevada involved 44 different property swaps. She has also masterminded the acquisition of lands along the upper Sacramento River and the North Fork American. She played a role in the addition of a one thousand plus acre parcel to the San Francisco Bay Area's renowned Gate National Recreation Area.

Harriet Burgess grew up in Xenia, Ohio where her fondest memory is wandering through the forest looking for wildflowers. But she didn't get into protecting public space until after her children were grown, when she volunteered to rewrite the zoning ordinance for Fairfax County, Virginia. During her time in Virginia, she was an exemplary member of my legislative staff in Washington, DC.

After a divorce in 1978, she moved to California and headed the western regional office for the Trust for Public land before founding the American Land Conservancy in 1990. The Conservancy, under Harriet's direction, has become a potent force in safeguarding California's most precious open spaces. Through sheer persistence and tenacity Harriet has time and again brought seemingly out-of-reach projects within grasp, helping local communities realize their dreams of protected land for open space.

Harriett Burgess has been a tireless and highly effective advocate of wilderness and recreational open space protection. Her list of accomplishments will be felt by generations.

As friends gather on November 16, 2005 to pay tribute to Harriet's extraordinary contribu-

tions, I join them in thanking her for the fruits of her efforts. We are grateful for her tenacity and perseverance to protect our precious lands.

HONORING WAYNE THOMAS
JAQUITH

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Wayne Jaquith upon the occasion of his impending retirement.

Over the last two decades, Wayne Jaquith has worked tirelessly to advance the cause of peace, security and disarmament.

Since June of 1999, he has coordinated the Peace and Security Funders Group, an organization which works with various philanthropic organizations interested in peace and disarmament issues. From December 1997 through May 1999, Wayne founded and ran the Peace Philanthropy Project, which sought to cultivate new philanthropy on peace and security issues. In 2002, Wayne also co-founded the Iraq Peace Fund, and served on its distribution committee. He also has been a consultant to W. Alton Jones Foundation, Ploughshares Fund and Turner Foundation.

Until July 1997, Wayne was president and founder of National Security News Service, Natural Resources News Service and Public Education Center. From 1989 through 1992, he served first as vice president and then as president of Council for a Livable World Education Fund, and as Boston director of Council for a Livable World. From 1978 through 1988, Wayne served successively as executive director of Nantucket Land Council, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Lawyers Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control and Ploughshares Fund. He was co-founder of many coalitions including Professionals Coalition for Nuclear Arms Control, Coalition for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers and the Arms Transfer Working Group.

Wayne has been an invaluable asset to the peace and disarmament community for many years. He will be missed. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING MSGT DEAN C. TEMPLE
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Dean C. Temple upon his retirement. MSgt Dean C. Temple is a native of Hinckley, Ohio. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in January 1983, shortly after graduating from Poudre High School, in Fort Collins, Colorado. He completed Military Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas on March 1, 1983 and was sent, by direct duty assignment, to Altus AFB, Oklahoma.

During his first assignment at Altus, then Amn Basic Temple was put to work as a new General Purpose Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice. After 2 years, he was rotated into the